

on the working of the Indian Registration Act, 1877, and the Dekkhan Agriculturists' Relief Act, 1879, accurate information regarding the causes of the principal variations in the number of registrations. (G. R. No. 8956, dated 4th December 1893.)

### III.—OBJECTS, PRINCIPLES AND POLICY OF THE DEPARTMENT.

1. It is necessary that the Registration Department should be self-supporting, but it is not intended that registration should be treated as a source of revenue, and the cheapening of transactions connected with it must have a considerable influence in popularizing and extending it to the public advantage. (G. R. No. 9474, dated 25th November 1885.)

2. The Governor General in Council trusts that no efforts will be spared to endeavour to make the registration of optionally registrable deeds more general than it is. It is incumbent on the Government to give all reasonable facilities for registration by establishing offices in sufficient numbers and appointing special officers for all places where there is no other public servant available with leisure to attend to the work, and where the receipts are likely to be sufficient to cover the cost. There is ample scope for increasing the number of offices in places where they do not at present meet the requirements of the people. The department has not been established for the purpose of realising a profit to Government, but in order to secure a better record of title in land and better evidence of monetary transactions among the people; and the Governor General in Council trusts that Local Governments and Administrations will not lose sight of the need for devoting the surplus in their hands (after meeting pensions and other indirect charges) to providing facilities for registration when experience shows that they are required. (G. I., H. D., No. 6 Pub.—259-271, dated 17th February 1891; *vide* G. R. No. 1724, dated 6th March 1891.)

3. As a general rule the Government of India is not disposed to regard with favor proposals to enhance registration fees especially when the enhancement affects documents of small values. It seems to His Excellency the Governor General in Council to be good policy to cheapen fees chargeable on such documents with the view of popularizing the system of registration and relieving the pressure which it must necessarily entail on the poorer classes. (G. I., H. D., No. 1000, dated 6th May 1887; *vide* G. R. No. 3376, dated 30th idem.)

4. In attempting to ascertain the value of estates and tenures transferred by registered deeds of sale, registering officers in Bengal were instructed to make enquiries of parties presenting deeds in which no revenue or rental was mentioned, in view to supplying the requisite details. In several instances such interference was resented, parties declining to furnish the information as not compulsory under the law. The Government of India consider that

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the prosecution by registering officers of personal interrogations on points regarding which the law does not oblige the parties to give information is greatly to be deprecated. There is nothing more likely to render registration unpopular and to contract the business of the Department. Local Governments should see that any general instructions of this description, which may have been issued, are withdrawn. (G. I., H. D., No. 36-1174-85, dated 1st September 1883; *vide* G. R. No. 7507, dated 8th October 1883.)

### IV.—REGISTRATION DISTRICTS AND SUB-DISTRICTS.\*

1. Under Section 5† of Registration Act VIII of 1871, His Excellency the Honourable the Governor in Council is pleased to order that on and from the 1st of October 1872, the British territory at Aden shall be formed into a district for the purposes of the above-named Act. The limits of the Aden District shall be the limits of the territory now in occupation at Aden, and shall include the Cantonment, Fortress, Port, Town, and Suburbs actually in possession of the British authorities. His Excellency in Council is further pleased, under Section 6 of Act VIII of 1871, to appoint the First Assistant Resident at Aden, or the officer acting in that capacity, *ex-officio* Registrar of Assurances for the Aden District, on and from the date of the introduction of the above-named Act into that place. (G. N. dated 3rd July 1872; *vide* G. R. No. 3184 of the same date.)

† Cf Section 5 of the Indian Registration Act, 1877.

2. Under Section 5 of the Indian Registration Act, No. VIII of 1871, His Excellency the Honourable the Governor in Council is pleased to order that on and from the 1st of July 1875 a Registration Sub-District shall be formed at Aden. The limits of the Aden Sub-District shall be conterminous with those of the District of Aden as prescribed in the Notification dated 3rd July and published at page 839 of the *Government Gazette* of 4th July 1872. (G. N., dated 14th June 1875; *vide* G. R. No. 3362 of the same date.)

3. In exercise of the powers conferred by Sections 5 and 7 of the Indian Registration Act, No. III of 1877, and in supersession of all previous notifications regarding the Registration District and Sub-District of Bombay and the office of Registrar and Sub-Registrar therein, the Governor in Council is pleased to direct that, with effect on and after the 1st January 1888, (a) the City of Bombay, as defined in the Bombay General Clauses Act, 1886, shall be a Registration District and also a Registration Sub-District; (b) the office of the Sub-Registrar of Bombay shall be amalgamated with that of the Registrar of Bombay; (c) the said Sub-Registrar shall exercise, in addition to his own powers and

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\* Most of the Notifications regarding the Registration Districts and Sub-Districts in this Presidency have not been reproduced here, being not of sufficient general importance.